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# Raiders, Hawks to decide 1991 **WLAA** grid title

Farmington Hills Harrison might have bigger, stronger, faster football players, but North Farmington won't concede anything more so easily to the undefeated Hawks.

The crosstown rivals will meet for the first time in five years Saturday to decide the Western Lakes Activities Association championship. Kickoff is 1 pm at North

decide the Western Lakes Activities Association enampionship. Access in pm. at North.

Harrison, 7-0 and rated the top team in Michigan, will be a solid favorite to win its fourth consecutive league title, but the Raiders (6-1 and No. 7 in Class A) plan to challenge the Hawks.

"It's not the size of the dog in the light." North linebacker Mike Hamill said. "It's the size of the dog in the light." North coach Jim O'Leary compares the situation to that facing the Raiders in 1978 when they upset top-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice in the semifinals of the Class A playoffs.

O'LEARY SAID the Raiders could leave the sprinkler system on all week and let the grass grow to allow the Hawks. He was kidding, of course. Scriously, he said forth believes it can win.
"Obviously, we feel they're a super football team," O'Leary said, "but if you play a good game against them you've got a chance.
"We'll have to play a real emotional game, an almost perfect game to beat them. We don't have the speed or size of a lot of teams, but we have a lot of heart."
"It comes down to challenging our kids. It's not embarrassing to have them beat you, but it's a great opportunity for us, too."
North senior Joo Sturtz, who plays upback and monsterback, echoed the statement by Hamill, saying emotion will play a big role in overcoming any physical disadvantages.

statement by insufantings.

"Mentally, we believe our team will be up for the game," he said. "Every single one will be ready to play. That kind of attitude and will to win overcomes a lot of physical ability.

"THEY'RE A good ballclub, and we think we have a good ballclub. We're going to give it our best effort, and the best ballclub will win." Harrison coach John Herrington said the Hawks are accustomed to opponents reaching an emotional peak when they play Harrison.

"Northville was really fired up and about sold the farm to beat us," he

"The only comparable score we have is (Plymouth) Salem and that's about ual. We anticipate a close game. I know North will play with a lot of



for a way out of the crowd while being guarded by Lisa Derocher (50) and

# **Falcons** fight off city foe

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

Farmington coach Brian
Farmington coach Brian
Swinehart took a pair of calculated
risks in the final seconds of Tuesday's girls baskethall game with
Farmington fills Harrison.
Though the first didn't have the
desired result, the second did and the
Falcons held on to defeat visiting
Harrison 43-40.
With his team leading by that
score and going to the free throw
line, Swinehart "thought about taking a timeout to set up our defense"
but the free throw didn't fall, and
Harrison had the ball with '07 remaining, Heather Hopkins attemptda three-point shot with two seconds left but missed.
"I thought about fouling so they
couldn't get a three off, but better
judgment prevailed." Swinshart.
said.

THAT HARRISON even had a chance to force an overtime was sur-prising after the third quarter Farm-ington played.

Leading 24-17 at halftime, the Falcons outscored Harrison 12-6 and led by 13 points entering the final pe-

Farmington guard Amani Plater scored six of her eight points in the third quarter, scoring three times at the end of fast breaks. The Falcons forced seven turnovers in that period, generally held Harrison to one shot and ran a successful transition offense.

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### Marlins claim league crown

Farmington Hills Mercy regained the Catholic League crown in girls cross country Saturday and added the Operation Friendship little Tuesday.

It's the second league championship in five years for the Marlins, who have wen four times overall. It marks the first time Mercy has worth the league and city titles, however.

"I'm pretty happy about that, Mercy coach Gary Servalls said." True enjoying the attitude of the kids. They come every day to work and run. We missed that hast year. Mercy scored 35 points to easily outdistance Dearborn Divine Child (Stance Dearborn Divine

girls cross country

managed to produce another cham-pionship team in his fifth season as coach.

coach. 6
SENIOR HEATHER Noll paced the team in the league meet at Marshbank Park with a second-place finish (20:16). Ladywood's Malla Diron was the individual winner.

The Marlins were bunched together with junior Sharmila Prasad taking third (20:28), sophomore Amy Freund fourth (20:29), freshman Elsen O'Connell Inlink (21:22) and senior Cara McDonagh 15th (22:29). In non-scoring roles, Junior Stephanic Johnson was 21st (22:49) and sophomore Mary Thewes 23rd (22:53).

"We had only two kids with experience, so it's a good accomplishment for all of them," Servals said. "Prasad and McDonagh are the only ones who rain last year. For everyone else, it was like their freahman year cross country. They really worked him to be really the serval of the harilins scored 55 points to win the Operation Friendship meet. Redford was the top Public School League team with 114 points. Prasad, Noll and Freund earned all-city honors by placing among the top 15 runners. Prasad was second (20:27), Noll sixth (21:20) and Freund 11th (21:47).

"O'Connell finished 17th (22:19) and Thewes 19th (22:21) to complete the Mercy scoring. McDonagh was 21st (22:47).

Kris Wiljanen leaves a Redford Union player in his wake Mon-

day. See game story on Page 2B.

JIM JAGDFELD/staff photographer

# Falcons sidelined in soccer

By Steve Kowalski stalf writer

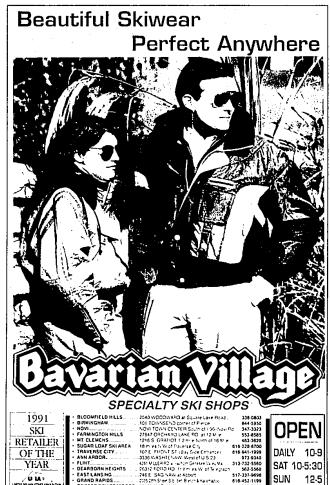
Dearborn High, the Northwest Suburban League Bys soccer cham-pion, will know Saturday how much that status means when the Pioneers

pion, will know Saturday how much hat status means when the Pioners meet their greatest challenge — Livonia Sievenson.

The Pioners made an initial statement Wednesday, beating Western Larkes Activities Association with the Activities Association and the Activities Association and the Activities Association of the Activities Associati

rival Stevenson.

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